

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:BBAK, AF

SUBJECT:MINERAL AND GEM ENTERPRISES INC.

REF: KABUL 0104

1. COMMERCE HAS CHECKED CITED REFERENCES FOR SUBJECT, AND ITS PRINCIPALS MIKE DAVIDOV AND H. MEHDI-TASH. REPORTS RECEIVED ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) DORIAN OF WELLS FARGO HAS KNOWN AND DONE BANKING BUSINESS WITH DAVIDOV FOR NUMBER OF YEARS DURING WHICH LINES OF CREDIT WERE EXTENDED IN MEDIUM TO HIGH SIX FIGURE AMOUNTS. BANK BALANCES MAINTAINED BY DAVIDOV HAVE CONSISTENTLY RUN IN LOW SIX FIGURES OR HIGHER, AND DORIAN CONSIDERS DAVIDOV A VERY WORTHWHILE AND RESPONSIBLE CLIENT.

(B) DORIAN HAS NOT HANDLED BANKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEHDI-TASH OR HIS COMPANIES, BUT HAS REPORTS THIS MERCHANT HAS NET WORTH EXCEEDING ONE MILLION DOLLARS AND EVEN MORE SUBSTANTIAL OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS. MEHDI-TASH APPARENTLY SPECIALIZES IN COLORED PRECIOUS GEMS WITH A NETWORK OF STRONG BUSINESS ASSOCIATES IN LATIN AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE.

(C) JEWELRY BOARD OF TRADE IS NOW LOCATED AT 24 BAKER STREET IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, AND REPORTS HAVING REF-

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ERENCE DATA ON DAVIDOV ONLY AS INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND COM-

PANY AT 607 SOUTH HILL STREET, LOS ANGELES. THIS IS AN OCTOBER 1975 REPORT WHICH GIVES FIRM BOARD'S TOP RELIABILITY RATING. LIMITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION GIVEN BY BOARD STRONGLY SUGGESTS WELLS FARGO AS CONTRIBUTING BANK REFERENCE.

2. COMMERCE HAS REQUESTED A CREDIT AGENCY REPORT ON MIKE DAVIDOV CO. WHICH IS LISTED AS AVAILABLE BUT WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. ANY SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AOBTAINED IN REVIEW OF THIS REPORT WILL BE CABLED.

3. CREDIT AND FINANCIAL DATA THUS FAR OBTAINED DOES NOT SUBSTANTIATE CAPABILITY OF SUBJECT TO UNDERTAKE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT BUT DOES INDICATE PRINCIPALS ARE EXPERIENCED AND WELL-ESTABLISHED GEM MERCHANTS.

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